

May 2, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Detroit Free Press: Michigan Supreme Court ruling continues domestic partner benefits for state employees

"The Michigan Supreme Court has denied a request by Attorney General Bill Schuette to overturn a January Court of Appeals ruling allowing state employees to receive benefits for domestic partners. In another order released today, the Supreme Court declined to hear claims by House Democrats that House Republicans have violated the state constitution by giving state laws immediate affect without taking a roll call vote."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Michigan Supreme Court won't hear Schuette's appeal on same-sex health care benefits

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Partner benefits stand for Michigan state workers

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Court declines appeal of Democrats in vote dispute

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Dearborn court reopens after bomb threat

"The 19th District Court in Dearborn reopened Thursday afternoon after police evacuated the building in response to a telephoned bomb threat. The court on Michigan Avenue was evacuated shortly after the call at 1:23 p.m. and police brought in a K-9 unit to search the area police said. The building was cleared and court resumed operations around 2:15 p.m."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Orr, 2 others face deposition in suit to invalidate Detroit's EM

"Emergency manager Kevyn Orr and two emergency loan board members must participate in depositions in a lawsuit seeking to invalidate Orr's appointment on claims of an Open Meetings Act violation, [Ingham County Circuit Judge William Collette] ruled Wednesday."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Judge orders emergency manager Orr to testify in open-meetings lawsuit

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Lansing Judge orders deposition of Detroit Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Bashara denied court delay; Charged in wife's death, he has no lawyer

"Former Grosse Pointe businessman Robert Bashara appeared at his arraignment Wednesday and told a magistrate he is trying to raise money to hire an attorney to defend him on charges he killed his wife."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Bob Bashara arraigned on first-degree murder, other charges

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Bill would make adoption process easier in Michigan

"Michigan lawmakers have introduced measures they say will make it easier for Michigan residents to adopt. The five-bill package was introduced Tuesday."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Proposals aim to ease Michigan's adoption process

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Proposals aim to ease Michigan's adoption process

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Court stops hearing for SW Mich. convicted killer

"The state appeals court has stepped in and stopped a hearing next week that could have led to the release of a convicted killer in southwestern Michigan. Leo Terlisner has been in prison for 36 years for the fatal robbery of a business owner in Covert in Van Buren County."

[Full story](#)

Battle Creek Enquirer: West Michigan judge suspended, loses pay for 30 days

"A western Michigan judge has been suspended for 30 days without pay for sending a lawyer to jail for contempt of court. The Michigan Supreme Court says Kenneth Post's punishment will begin in three weeks. He's been a District Court judge in Hudsonville in Ottawa County since 1980."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Legal News: Judge suspended, loses pay for 30 days

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Newest justice addresses Cooley Law students on ethics and civility

"The Michigan Supreme Court's newest appointee, Justice David Viviano, was the keynote speaker for the Professionalism in Action orientation at Cooley Law School's Auburn Hills campus on Tuesday, April 30.... Viviano, a University of Michigan Law School graduate, was appointed to the court by Gov. Rick Snyder in February 2013."

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Michigan Supreme Court reverses appeals court decision on lawsuit filed against Burton by former police chief

"The Michigan Supreme Court has overturned a decision by the state appeals court that tossed out a verdict against the city of Burton in a Whistleblower lawsuit filed by the city's former police chief. The decision could leave the city on the hook to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars."

[Full story](#)

Hometown Life Newspapers: Court offers amnesty on fines and fees

"People with unpaid fines have a chance to get straight with 21st District Court of Garden City. The court is offering an amnesty program now through June 28 and is waiving default fees, 20 percent late fees and warrant fees on civil infractions, parking tickets and some misdemeanor charges in which fines and costs only are remaining."

[Full story](#)

Hometown Life Newspapers: Police program boosts Westland's court revenues

"As Westland council members met Saturday to discuss the proposed 2013-14 fiscal year budget, 18th District Court received the most attention. Unlike some past years, court revenues are up and exceeding the amount budgeted in the current fiscal year."

[Full story](#)

Ingham County Legal News: Schneider to Serve as Chief Legal Counsel

"Attorney General Bill Schuette announced Matthew Schneider will serve as his Chief Legal Counsel.... Schneider will succeed the Honorable Richard Bandstra, who will retire from state service on May 31, 2013."

[Full story](#)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Justice in real-life courtrooms versus the kind seen on TV

"No quasi-holiday receives less hoopla than Law Day. Did you notice Law Day was Wednesday? Almost no one did. Law Day was invented in 1958 as an American counterpart to May Day, a big deal for socialists. Bar associations organize lunches and essay contests, but Law Day is otherwise overlooked."

[Full story](#)

Legal Newsline: Mich. appeals court sides with homeowners in suit over bat feces cleanup

"The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled this week that a lower court did not err in awarding sanctions to a couple, whose home was overrun by bats, on the basis that a remediation company's civil action against them was frivolous. A three-judge panel of the court released its per curiam opinion Tuesday."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Switching gears: Former prosecutor begins new role on county bench

"While attending law school, Byron Konschuh envisioned a career combining his law degree with his future MBA, perhaps sitting behind a desk writing briefs, or doing research, or some sort of behind-the-scenes work in business.... What a difference a career makes. That shy, soft-spoken young lawyer later joined the Lapeer County Prosecutor's Office, working his way up to Lapeer County prosecutor, and now has become a Lapeer County Circuit Court judge."

[Full story](#)

The Macomb Daily: Judge dismisses marijuana charges after warrant tossed

"A man's criminal marijuana charges and civil forfeiture proceedings were dismissed by a Macomb County judge due to police providing misleading information for a search warrant.... [Circuit Judge Diane Druzinski's] recent rulings follow a state Court of Appeals' decision in March that nullified the search warrant because a Roseville police officer included 'conclusory' statements and 'self-serving assertions' based on the use of 'rumors or reputations' that drug activity was taking place at the house, on an affidavit for the warrant."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Daily Tribune and the Oakland Press.

The MiLW Blog: Input sought for statewide E-filing, videoconferencing standards

"The Michigan Supreme Court wants the State Court Administrative Office to establish statewide standards for E-filing and videoconferencing for both trial and appellate courts. But before the Court adopts the enabling orders, it is seeking comments on both matters."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Supreme Court considers receivership rules update

"The Michigan Supreme Court has released for comment proposed amendments of MCR 2.261 and 2.622, which would expand and update the rules regarding receivership proceedings. The proposed changes were submitted by the Receivership Committee, a work group created by the state bar Business Law Section's Debtor/Creditor Rights Committee."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Judicial code, professional conduct rules amended

"The Michigan Supreme Court has provided additional guidance for judges engaged in law-related and nonlaw-related extrajudicial activities. The Court has amended Canons 2, 4, 5, and 7 of the Code of Judicial Conduct and Rule 8.2 of the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

SBM Blog: MSC Aims To Eliminate Confusion With Amendments to Code of Judicial Conduct

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: High court adopts concurrent jurisdiction plans

"The Michigan Supreme Court, on its steady course to improve judicial efficiency, issued concurrent jurisdiction plans for Eaton and Tuscola counties. The MSC's May 1 orders (Eaton County) (Tuscola County) have immediate effect."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: JTC would be required to disclose certain corrective actions

"The Judicial Tenure Commission would be required to tell a court's chief judge if a referee or magistrate is subject to certain corrective actions, under a proposed amendment of MCR 9.221. Disclosure would be required for actions that do not 'not rise to the level of a formal complaint, including a letter of caution, a conditional dismissal, an admonishment, or a recommendation for private censure.' "

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Prosecutors want medical marijuana felony charges reconsidered

"Even though a Wexford County Circuit judge dismissed felony charges against a former medical-marijuana shop owner, prosecutors are not backing down, recently filing a motion for reconsideration in the case."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: National Day of Prayer attracts hundreds to Michigan Capitol in Lansing

"There was praying, singing and celebrating Thursday at the state Capitol as Michigan lawmakers, officials and citizens took part in the National Day of Prayer.... Several other officials were on hand, including state Rep. Gail Haines, R-Waterford Township, Oakland Circuit Judge Michael Warren and Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Mark Boonstra."

[Full story](#)

The News-Herald/Southgate: TAYLOR: State decision aside, right-to-work lawsuit by Taylor teachers proceeds (VIDEO)

"A recent decision by the Michigan House of Representatives to drop right-to-work contract penalties from its budget won't change a lawsuit by three teachers.... Teachers Angela Steffke, Rebecca Metz and Nancy Rhatigan filed suit in late February after the district and the Taylor Federation of Teachers' union ratified a new five-year contract that included a 10-year dues clause."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Free seminar to remove Probate Court mysteries

"On Thursday, May 16, the Citizens Alliance for the Oakland County Probate and Circuit Courts will conduct a free seminar entitled 'Removing the Mysteries of Probate Court' at the City of Novi Older Adult Services-Meadowbrook Activities Center from 1 to 3 p.m. This program is designed to enlighten and educate senior citizens and their families so that they may make informed decisions regarding their estate planning and understand the probate process."

[Full story](#)

WKAR News/East Lansing: Current State: Chief Judge makes case for indigent defense reform (12:27 minute podcast)

"... The state often ranks low in assessments of its system of indigent defense. In recent years, several efforts by the state legislature to strengthen the system have failed. Chief Judge of the 55th District Court Thomas Boyd is an advocate for reform of public defense. He joins Current State to explain what's wrong with Michigan's system and why it needs to change."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

SBM Blog: Law Day May Day: Focus On Indigent Criminal Defense

[Full story](#)